



하와이 한인회

The United Korean Association of Hawaii

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April 12, 2010

The Honorable Nestor Garcia, Chair
and Member of the Budget Committee
Honolulu City Council
530 South Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Dear Chair Garcia and Council members:

Re: Executive Budget Bill 15 CD1

On behalf of the United Korean Association of Hawaii (TUKAH), I urge you to maintain the Mayor's Office of Economic Development (OED) and not to enact drastic budget cuts. OED is very important to the TUKAH as it provides grants to its biggest event, the annual Korean Festival which is partnered with the Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce. The Korean Festival gives the opportunity to share the Korean culture with Hawaii as it features the very best in Korean music, dance, food, cultural displays and family activities as well as Korean-made and local-made products.

The annual festival unites the local Korean community as more than 450 volunteers representing over 40 Korean and local non-profit organizations come out to support the event. Over 40,000 Hawaii residents and visitors including the US mainland, Japan, Korea and Canada attend annually to experience the culture which creates economic opportunities.

OED provides support targeted at the local Oahu community. These needs are not being met by state agencies. Given the economic challenges faced by our community, OED has been able to leverage its modest level of funding with public private partnerships that have enriched the economic well being of our county. I urge you to maintain the Mayor's Office of Economic Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Young Hae Kim
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Young Hae Kim".

MISC. COM. 418

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